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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2261583 A

GB 2189122 A

GB 2163335 A

GB 1579210 A

US 4845602 A

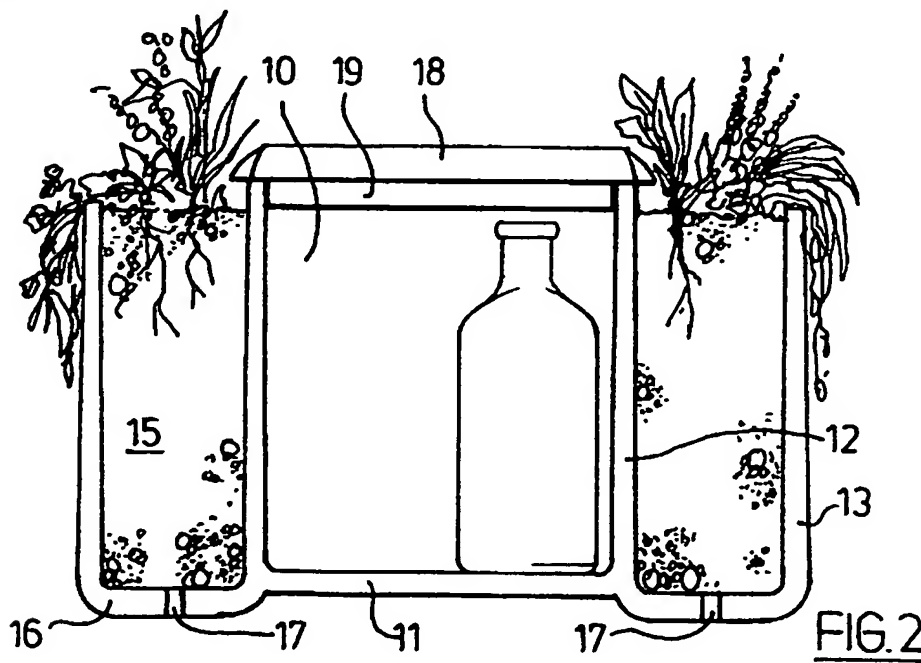
(58) Field of Search

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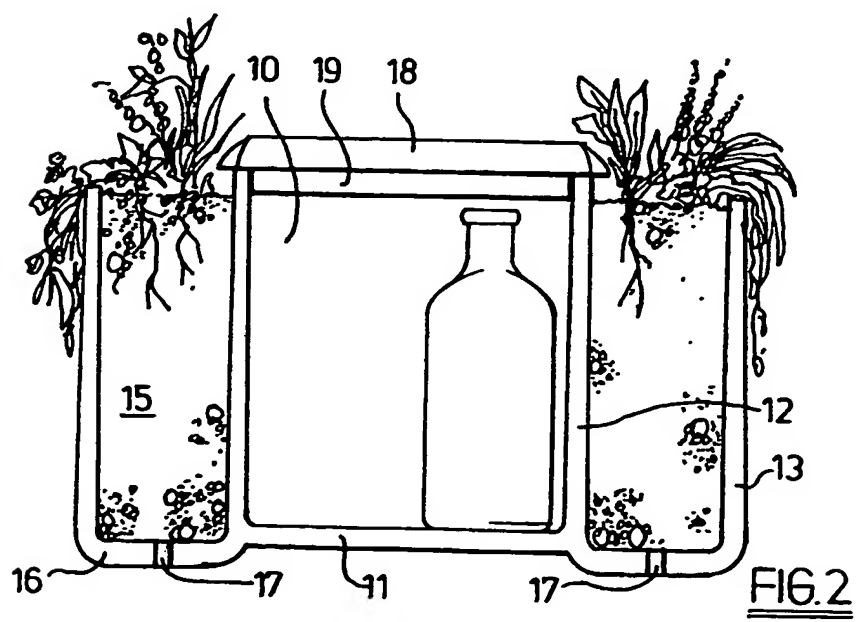
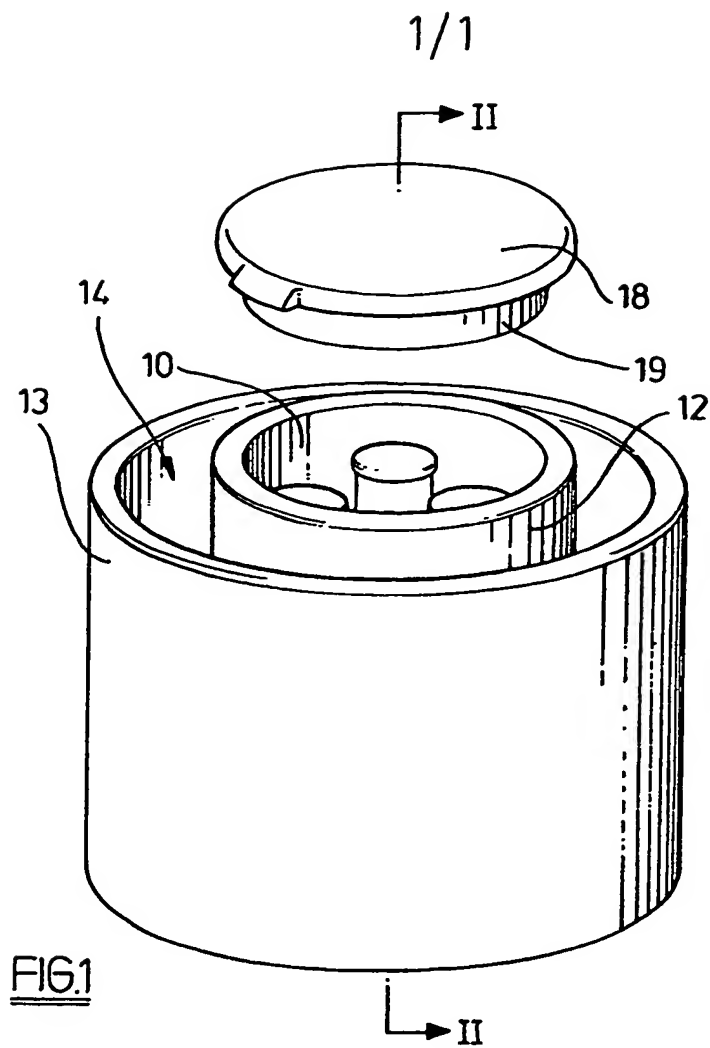
(54) Milk bottle receptacle and plant tub

(57) A receptacle in the form of a tub, e.g. for milk bottles, whose side walls comprise inner and outer skins 12, 13 defining an open-topped annular cavity 14 adapted to be filled with a planting medium 15 the planting medium acting as an insulator for the tub and the contents thereof. Removable lid 18 is insulated by expanded polystyrene disc 19.



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RECEPTACLE

This invention concerns a receptacle, particularly, though by no means exclusively, suitable for receipt of bottles of milk delivered to domestic premises.

Many such receptacles are known. Frequently they take the form of a lidded box having side walls which are thermally insulated by, for example, expanded polystyrene material.

One known such receptacle is adapted for positioning within a soil-filled planter thereby providing a ring-shaped planting area which can be planted with suitable plants to disguise the functional nature of the receptacle and be generally attractive. However, provision of a planting area of reasonable extent, insulation of adequate thickness and sensible storage capacity makes for a unit of considerable size, ill-suited for positioning on many a front door step for example.

The present invention is based upon an appreciation of the fact that soil (or other planting medium) is itself an excellent thermal insulant thereby eliminating the need for any further insulating layer.

According to the present invention there is provided a receptacle in the form of a tub whose side walls comprise inner and outer skins defining an open-topped cavity adapted to be filled with a planting medium.

There may be drainage holes in the base of the open-topped cavity.

The tub may be provided with a removable lid.

The lid may be insulated.

The tub may be sized and shaped to accommodate a plurality of bottles of milk.

The inner and outer skins and base may be comprised by an integral plastics moulding.

The invention will be further apparent from the following description, with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawing, which show, by way of example only, one form of receptacle embodying same.

Of the drawing :-

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of the receptacle; and

Figure 2 shows a cross-section through the receptacle on the line II-II of Figure 1.

Referring now to the drawing, it will be seen that the receptacle comprises a tub 10 of circular section having a base 11 and whose side wall comprises inner and outer skins 12 and 13 respectively defining an open-topped annular cavity 14 which can be filled with soil or other planting medium 15 and planted with suitable bedding plants or other subjects.

The base 16 to the cavity 14 is provided with drainage holes 17.

The tub 10 is provided with a removable circular lid 18 which is insulated by an underlying disc 19 of expanded polystyrene.

The inner skin 12 is slightly higher than the outer skin 13 to support the lid 18 above the level of the soil 15.

The walls 12 and 13 and bases 11 and 16 are formed as an integral plastics moulding.

The tub 10 is sized and shaped to contain up to four bottles of milk, which are protected from heat by

the insulation provided by the planting medium 15 and lid 18.

It will be understood that the entire unit is quite compact and readily sited in a confined space such as to the side of a doorstep for example.

Bottles of milk and other goods delivered to the tub 10 are protected from the attention of birds and other animals and from the heat of the sun.

It will be appreciated that it is not intended to limit the invention to the above example only, many variations, such as might readily occur to one skilled in the art, being possible, without departing from the scope thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A receptacle in the form of a tub whose side-walls comprise inner and outer skins defining an open-topped cavity adapted to be filled with a planting medium.
2. A receptacle according to claim 1 in which there are drainage holes in the base of the open-topped cavity.
3. A receptacle according to either one of claims 1 or 2 which is provided with a removable lid.
4. A receptacle according to claim 3 in which the lid is insulated.
5. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims which is sized and shaped to accommodate a plurality of bottles of milk.
6. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims in which the inner and outer skins and base comprise an integrated plastic moulding.

Amendments to the claims have been filed as follows

1. A receptacle in the form of a tub whose side-walls comprise inner and outer skins defining an open-topped cavity adapted to be filled with a planting medium and surrounding a central portion, drainage holes in the base of the open-topped cavity, a removable insulated lid for the central portion which is sized and shaped to accommodate a plurality of bottles of milk.

2. A receptacle according to claim 1 in which the inner and outer skins and base comprise an integrated plastic moulding.

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| Patents Act 1977 Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17 (2 Search report) | 7 Application number GB 9410050.0 |
| Relevant Technical Fields (i) UK Cl (Ed.M) F4U (U52B); A1E (EAKA, EAKX) (ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) B65D 81/38; A01G 9/02 Databases (see below) (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications. (ii) | Search Examiner J M WORVELL Date of completion of Search 5 JULY 1994 Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :- 1-6 |

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| A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. | &: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document. |

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passages | Relevant to claim(s) |
|----------|---|----------------------|
| X | GB 2261583 A (PETTYFER) see inter alia Figure 9 | 1, 6 at least |
| X | GB 2189122 A (CANTRELL) | 1, 3 at least |
| X | GB 2163335 A (CLARKE) | 1, 2, 6 at least |
| X | GB 1579210 (LEE CHONG WAN) | 1, 2, 3 at least |
| X | US 4845602 (LEHOCKI) | 1, 2, 3, 4 at least |

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